



# Congressional Record

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*Friday, May 23, 2003*

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## *House of Representatives*

HON. STEVE ISRAEL  
OF NEW YORK

### **THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION'S REVISION OF MEDIA OWNERSHIP RULES**

MR. ISRAEL: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H. Res. 218, a resolution that expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) should not revise its media ownership rules without more extensive review and without a public comment period. The FCC is scheduled to announce their decision on June 2, 2003.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of this important resolution because the proposed media ownership rules will undoubtedly be a drastic rewrite that would place huge limits on what Americans hear on the radio, watch on television or read in the newspaper. We should invite more review and public comment on the consequences of these changes before the rule is implemented.

Among other things, these proposed rules would permit a television corporation to own a radio station and a newspaper in the same market. They would also increase the number of stations a television company can own from two to three. These rules will result in increased mergers activity and ultimately, in many markets, Americans will get all aspects of their news and information from one company.

The legislated goals of the FCC include fostering competition, local control and an array of voices. But these proposed rules go against the FCC's own objectives by allowing a massive concentration of power and putting local stations out of business. These rules would create homogenized programming.

The United States prides itself on diversity and freedom of the press. My constituents have expressed concern at the thought of one media outlet controlling all of the news and information they receive about their government, their fellow citizens and their culture.

I am hopeful that by June 2, 2003, FCC Chairman Michael Powell will hear the voices of Americans and postpone implementation of his rule so that he can hold public discussions and conduct a more extensive review.